MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : We have statistics of sedimentary basins for oil and gas which are virtually spread over the entire country and the ONGC as well as OIL which are the gas and oil exploratory agencies have a plan of action for drilling. I will not be able to say off hand whether Jhunjhunu is in this perspective plan but I can inform the Hon. Member that we have in 1990-91 dug four wells in Rajasthan and the Hon. Member from Rajasthan would be happy to note that gas was found in all the four wells which were dug during the last financial year.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Hon. Minister said that there is scope for commercial exploitation of the gas so far found.

The 3MW Power Plant at Ramgarh has been pending for so long. Why are you not exploiting that scope ?

It means that there is scope for exploitation but you will wait and do it later. When are you going to do that exploitation ? Why have you not done it so far ? The 3 MW Ramgarh Plant has been waiting completion. Why have you not even started doing it ?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : The Hon. Member will be happy to know that the ONGC has already committed to the Government of Rajasthan, gas of the setting up of the 3 MW power Plant at Ramgarh and it was done as far back as 1985 and we had also given a concessional price for this gas. The Rajasthan State Electricity Board has not signed the gas supply contract with ONGC. They have recently shown further interest in the utilisation of this gas. We shall be happy to make this gas available because we had already promised the State of Rajasthan that this will be available for the Ramgarh Power Plant.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Sir it has been established for a fact that there are oil deposits in Gokharu village in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, but further exploration work has been stopped. May I know from the Hon. Minister as to why the exploration work has been stopped and whether it be restarted ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B SHANKARANAND) : Sir, I can understand the concern of the Hon. Member for his area. I can only say to this House that this is a suggestion for action of the Government. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that it is a suggestion for action.

[*English*]

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : Sir, the ONGC has set up some gas facilities at Bombay. As the Hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand is also coming from Karnataka, may I know from him in view of the scarcity of power in Karnataka, is he going to have any gas-line for the theremal plants at Belgaum, Hubli-Darwar ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question is disallowed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS THROUGH PIPELINES IN AHMEDABAD

*205. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted the feasibility project report on supply of natural gas to Ahmedabad, Surat and Valia Cities through pipelines; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government so far ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allocation of gas have been made for Surat City. In view of the present availability and commitments of gas, it has not been possible to allocate gas for Ahmedabad City and Valia.

[*Translation*]

DEVELOPMENT OF SANCHI FOR TOURISM

*211. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to develop Sanchi and its adjacent areas to encourage foreign tourists there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : Development of tourism infrastructure in the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Central Government extends financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them, availability of funds and interse priorities. The Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned Rs. 08.32 lakhs for the construction of a Cafeteria at Sanchi to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

JAPANESE ASSISTANCE TO LINK BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE CENTRES

*212. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to link all the Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres by railway lines with Japanese assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Foreign assistance likely to be received in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

GAS FLARING PROJECT

*213. DR. A. K. PATEL .

SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had initiated a proposal for setting up of a flaring project to be financed by the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project and when it was submitted to the Government;

(c) whether the project has since been cleared;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) at what stage the project rests at present and the estimated time schedule of the work ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (e) The Gas Flaring Reduction Project of ONGC estimated to cost US $ 2878.40 million has been posed to the Asian Development Bank for cofinancing along with World Bank.

Two major components of the project have been approved by Government. Feasibility Reports of three components were received recently and are being processed. The project is expected to be completed by 1994.

MANAGEMENT OF ITDC HOTELS

*214. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have again revived the proposal to abandon ITDC